



DORSET FIRE DISTRICT

Dorset Volunteer Fire Dept.
Dorset Water Co.

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DORSET FIRE DISTRICT #1

March 8, 2021

(Via Zoom Call)

Present: Ben Weiss, Chairman, Milt McWayne, Roger Squire, Lee Fox, Rob Gaiotti (Town Manager), Shawn Hazelton (Fire Chief).

Absent: Abbott de Rham

Others Present: Greg Kepler, Robert Clark, Larry Caruso, Justine Cook

Ben Weiss called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

Approval of January Minutes

Lee Fox moved and Roger Squire seconded to approve the February 8th minutes as presented, motion passed, 4-0.

Bond Project Update – Compensation for previous work discussion:

Ben Weiss noted that water customer Larry Caruso had inquired about an issue of equity with the proposed bond project(s). Larry noted that his service line was leaking in 2020, and was completely replaced back to the main at a cost of \$3,200. He noted that he would now be paying a bond payment on top of having just paid the full cost of upgrading the service line, which he noted was not fair.

Ben Weiss presented a spreadsheet that outlined potential reimbursement options for service line projects in the past 5 years. It was noted that each year would have a corresponding % reimbursement from 75% down to 15%. He used a project tracking spreadsheet to determine the exposure for the District. Discussion ensued about the approach and requiring proper documentation to prove that the work was done prior to reimbursement. Ben Weiss also noted that the District's preference would be to reduce the bond payment for a period of

time as the form of reimbursement vs. cash outlay. It was the consensus of the Board that the bond payment reduction was the best method. Lee Fox noted that he agreed with the approach and that the District could review the details further as things progress. Milt McWayne agreed with L. Fox and stated that it seemed reasonable and fair to implement as the presentation laid out. It was the consensus of the Board that the spreadsheet and actual reimbursement percentages and parameters would be worked out at a later date. Larry Caruso thanked the Board for the time and efforts looking into it.

Lee Fox moved and Roger Squire seconded to approve the compensation for previously installed service lines based on a pro rata reimbursement, this is also contingent upon the system wide service line bond project moving forward, motion passed 4-0.

Bond Project Update – State Subsidy:

Ben Weiss noted the frustration of the District with ending up a \$750k subsidy vs. \$1.75 million in subsidy. He inquired as to the status of the remaining readiness to proceed items: Archaeological Resource Assessment, and Engineering Services Agreement. Robert Clark noted that the ARA could be done by June (or so) and the District needed to settle on a contractor. Greg Kepler noted that one option was UVM at \$2,500 and the other option was Hartgen at \$5,000. Hartgen was able to produce the ARA sooner than UVM, it was the consensus of the Board to move forward with the Hartgen proposal. R. Clark noted that he had emailed the ESA earlier this evening and that the District would need to review and then send it to the State for review prior to finalizing it. He noted that some of the language was required as part of the State program.

Discussion ensued about the overall approach to the project(s) based on financing and the best financing package available. It was also noted that the Board was hoping to keep close to an approximate quarterly bond payment cost that was presented as part of the public informational meetings leading up to the Bond vote. It was further noted that the Bond vote was very successful at 335-50, but again the Board worried about overall costs and keeping them reasonable. Roger Squire noted that he had previously asked for a project timeline to better understand the timeframe and tasks required as part of the project. G. Kepler and R. Clark stated that they would work to create a timeline for the Board to review.

Engineer's Report

G. Kepler presented that Engineer's Report which covered:

- Safe yield estimate update
- 2021 DWSRF priority list application submitted
- ARA coordination

Lee Fox moved and Roger Squire seconded to approve the Engineer's report as presented, motion passed 4-0.

Water Manager's Report

R. Gaiotti went through the monthly manager's report giving updates on:

- Bond approval and underwriting updates
- Easement draft status and plan to implement
- Operations work and Safe Yield planning etc.
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Fire Chief's Report

Chief Hazleton gave the monthly report for the Fire Department activities. He noted the calls for the month and the work done by the members. He noted that 3 false alarms had occurred at 2914 Danby Mountain Road and they met the criteria to be issued a \$300 fine per the regulations. Chief Hazleton noted a couple of needs/projects for the 2021 Fire Budget as well. Milt McWayne moved and Lee Fox seconded to approve the Fire Chief's report for February, motion passed 4-0.

Water/ Fire Financials

R. Gaiotti presented the monthly financial information for Water & Fire Divisions. He also noted that 95% of the \$85,000 preliminary engineering costs have been paid out to Otter Creek for the water project.

Roger Squire moved and Lee Fox seconded to approve the monthly financials, motion passed 4-0.

Petitioned Article Discussion – Justine Cook

Justine Cook was present to inquire with the Board about an Annual Meeting voting article she was hoping to sponsor as a petition. She noted that the article would require a District wide vote for any permanent connection of the supplemental wells. Her concern was with regard to the quality of the water and any impacts to it that new water would represent. Discussion ensued about the process and whether or not the voters can legally petition an article of this manner. Further Discussion ensued about District voting and the authority of the Prudential Committee etc. Ben Weiss stated that he would reach out to Attorney Jim Barlow to get a determination on the legality of the petition and would provide the information to Justine Cook as soon as possible.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 9:35pm

Respectfully Submitted, Rob Gaiotti, Town Manager